

THE MICHIGAN PENAL CODE (EXCERPT)

Act 328 of 1931

CHAPTER XXXIX

FIREWORKS

750.243 Repealed. 1968, Act 358, Eff. Jan. 1, 1969.

Compiler's note: The repealed section pertained to unlawful sale, possession, and transportation of fireworks.

750.243a Definitions; prohibited sales and conduct; fireworks for which permit not required.

Sec. 243a. (1) As used in this chapter:

(a) "Fireworks" means a device made from explosive or flammable compositions used primarily for the purpose of producing a visible display or audible effect, or both, by combustion, deflagration, or detonation. Fireworks includes class B fireworks and class C fireworks.

(b) "Class B fireworks" means toy torpedoes, railway torpedoes, firecrackers or salutes that do not qualify as class C fireworks, exhibition display pieces, aeroplane flares, illuminating projectiles, incendiary projectiles, incendiary grenades, smoke projectiles or bombs containing expelling charges but without bursting charges, flash powders in inner units not exceeding 2 ounces each, flash sheets in interior packages, flash powder or spreader cartridges containing not more than 72 grains of flash powder each, and other similar devices.

(c) "Class C fireworks" means toy smoke devices, toy caps containing not more than .25 grains of explosive mixture, toy propellant devices, cigarette loads, trick matches, trick noise makers, smoke candles, smoke pots, smoke grenades, smoke signals, hand signal devices, Very signal cartridges, sparklers, explosive auto alarms, and other similar devices.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) and sections 243b, 243c, and 243d, a person, firm, partnership, or corporation shall not offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail, keep with intent to sell at retail, possess, give, furnish, transport, use, explode, or cause to explode any of the following:

(a) A blank cartridge, blank cartridge pistol, toy cannon, toy cane, or toy gun in which explosives are used.

(b) An unmanned balloon which requires fire underneath to propel it and is not moored to the ground while aloft.

(c) Firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, daygo bombs, bottle rockets, whistling chasers, rockets on sticks, or other fireworks of like construction.

(d) Fireworks containing an explosive or inflammable compound or a tablet or other device commonly used and sold as fireworks containing nitrates, fulminates, chlorates, oxalates, sulphides of lead, barium, antimony, arsenic, mercury, nitroglycerine, phosphorus, or a compound containing these or other modern explosives.

(3) A permit is not required for the following:

(a) Flat paper caps containing not more than .25 of a grain of explosive content per cap, in packages labeled to indicate the maximum explosive content per cap.

(b) Toy pistols, toy cannons, toy canes, toy trick noise makers, and toy guns of a type approved by the director of the department of state police in which paper caps as described in subdivision (a) are used and which are so constructed that the hand cannot come in contact with the cap when in place for the explosion and which are not designed to break apart or be separated so as to form a missile by the explosion.

(c) Sparklers containing not more than .0125 pounds of burning portion per sparkler.

(d) Flitter sparklers in paper tubes not exceeding 1/8 inch in diameter, cone fountains, and cylinder fountains.

(e) Toy snakes not containing mercury, if packed in cardboard boxes with not more than 12 pieces per box for retail sale and if the manufacturer's name and the quantity contained in each box are printed on the box; and toy smoke devices.

(f) Possession, transportation, sale, or use of signal flares of a type approved by the director of the department of state police, blank cartridges or blank cartridge pistols specifically for a show or theater, for the training or exhibiting of dogs, for signal purposes in athletic sports, for use by military organizations, and all items described in subsection (2) used by railroads for emergency signal purposes.

(g) The sale of fireworks, provided they are to be shipped directly out of state pursuant to regulations of the United States department of transportation covering the transportation of explosives and other dangerous articles by motor, rail, and water.

History: Add. 1968, Act 358, Eff. Jan. 1, 1969;—Am. 1976, Act 36, Imd. Eff. Mar. 9, 1976;—Am. 1978, Act 258, Eff. July 1, 1978;—Am. 1980, Act 422, Eff. Mar. 31, 1981.

Compiler's note: For transfer of certain powers and duties of the department of state police, and its director, to the director of the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

750.243b Permit for use or sale of fireworks.

Sec. 243b. (1) The legislative body of a city, village, or township, upon application in writing, on forms provided by the bureau of fire services created in section 1b of the fire prevention code, 1941 PA 207, MCL 29.1b, may grant a permit for the use of fireworks otherwise prohibited by section 243a, within the city, village, or township, manufactured for outdoor pest control or agricultural purposes, or for public display by municipalities, fair associations, amusement parks, or other organizations or groups of individuals approved by the city, village, or township authority, if the applicable provisions of this act are complied with. The permits shall be on forms provided by the bureau of fire services. After a permit has been granted, sales, possession, or transportation of fireworks for the purposes described in the permit only may be made. A permit granted under this subsection is not transferable and shall not be issued to a person under the age of 18 years.

(2) The legislative body of a city, village, or township, upon application in writing, may grant a permit, on forms provided by the bureau of fire services, to a resident wholesale dealer or jobber to have in his possession within the city, village, or township, fireworks otherwise prohibited by section 243a, for sale only to holders of permits as provided in this section. A permit granted under this subsection is not transferable, nor shall a permit be issued to a person under the age of 18 years.

(3) Before a permit for a pyrotechnic display is issued, the person, firm, or corporation applying for the permit shall furnish proof of financial responsibility by a bond or insurance in an amount, character, and form deemed necessary by the local governing authority to satisfy claims for damages to property or personal injuries arising out of an act or omission on the part of the person, firm, or corporation, or an agent or employee thereof, and to protect the public.

(4) A permit shall not be issued under this act to a nonresident person, firm, or corporation for conduct of a pyrotechnic display in this state until the person, firm, or corporation has appointed in writing a resident member of the bar of this state or a resident agent to be the legal representative upon whom all process in an action or proceeding against the person, firm, or corporation may be served.

(5) The local governing authority shall rule on the competency and qualifications of operators of pyrotechnic displays, as the operator has furnished in his application form, and on the time, place, and safety aspects of the displays before granting permits.

History: Add. 1968, Act 358, Eff. Jan. 1, 1969;—Am. 1972, Act 14, Imd. Eff. Feb. 19, 1972;—Am. 1976, Act 36, Imd. Eff. Mar. 9, 1976;—Am. 2006, Act 209, Imd. Eff. June 19, 2006.

Compiler's note: For transfer of certain powers and duties of the department of state police, and its director, to the director of the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

750.243c Permit for intrastate transportation of fireworks.

Sec. 243c. Transportation of fireworks intrastate shall be made only with the permits provided for in this act and as follows:

(a) In accordance with United States department of transportation regulations for transportation of explosives and other dangerous articles by motor, rail, and water, including specifications for shipping containers.

(b) In nonpassenger carrying vehicles, in charge of a competent driver not less than 18 years of age, which are equipped with a 15-pound carbon dioxide or a 10-pound dry chemical fire extinguisher; and in or near which smoking shall be prohibited while loading, unloading, or transporting fireworks.

History: Add. 1968, Act 358, Eff. Jan. 1, 1969;—Am. 1972, Act 14, Imd. Eff. Feb. 19, 1972;—Am. 1976, Act 36, Imd. Eff. Mar. 9, 1976.

Compiler's note: For transfer of certain powers and duties of the department of state police, and its director, to the director of the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

750.243d Storage of fireworks at sites of wholesalers, dealers, and jobbers; exception.

Sec. 243d. The storage of fireworks at the site of a wholesaler, dealer, or jobber, except for a retailer who has goods on hand for sale to the public in a supervised display area, shall be as follows:

(a) In a 1 story, noncombustible building without a basement, which building is weather resistant, well ventilated, and equipped with a strong door kept securely locked except when open for business.

(b) The location of the storage building shall be approved by the local governing authority having jurisdiction, and shall be located not less than the following distances from inhabited buildings, passenger railroads, and public highways according to the number of pounds of fireworks stored, rounded to the nearest pound:

Net Weight of Fireworks	Distance From Passenger Railways and Public Highways		Distance From Inhabited Buildings	
	Class C Fireworks	Class B Fireworks	Class C Fireworks	Class B Fireworks
Pounds	Feet	Feet	Feet	Feet
100 or less	25	200	50	200
101 to 200	30	200	60	200
201 to 400	35	200	70	200
401 to 600	40	200	80	208
601 to 800	45	200	90	252
801 to 1,000	50	200	100	292
1,001 to 2,000	58	230	115	459
2,001 to 3,000	62	296	124	592
3,001 to 4,000	65	352	130	704
4,001 to 5,000	68	400	135	800
5,001 to 6,000	70	441	139	882
6,001 to 8,000	73	509	140	1,018
8,001 to 10,000	75	565	150	1,129
10,001 to 15,000	80	668	159	1,335
15,001 to 20,000	83	745	165	1,490
20,001 to 30,000	87	863	174	1,725
30,001 to 40,000	90	953	180	1,906
40,001 to 50,000	93	1,030	185	2,060
50,001 to 60,000	95	1,095	189	2,190
60,001 to 80,000	98	1,205	195	2,410
80,001 to 100,000	100	1,300	200	2,600
100,001 to 150,000	105	1,488	209	2,975
151,001 to 200,000	108	1,638	215	3,275
200,001 or more	110	1,765	220	3,530

(c) A person shall not cause or allow smoking, matches, open flames, spark producing devices, or firearms inside of or within 50 feet of a building used for the storage of fireworks. A person shall not store combustible materials within 50 feet of a building used for the storage of fireworks.

(d) The interior of a building used for the storage of fireworks shall be kept clean and free from debris and empty containers. A person shall not use a building used for the storage of fireworks for the storage of any metal tools or any commodity other than fireworks.

(e) A person shall not provide a building used for the storage of fireworks with heat or lights, except that if lights are necessary, an electric safety flashlight or safety lantern shall be used.

(f) A building used for the storage of fireworks shall bear lettering on each side and top in letters not less than 4 inches high, the words "explosives—keep fire away".

(g) A building used for the storage of fireworks shall be under the supervision of a competent person, who shall be not less than 18 years of age.

(h) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (b), salutes that do not qualify as class C fireworks shall be considered to be hazardous material and shall be stored in accordance with rules for the storage and handling of hazardous material promulgated under section 3c of Act No. 207 of the Public Acts of 1941, as amended, being section 29.3c of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

History: Add. 1968, Act 358, Eff. Jan. 1, 1969;—Am. 1972, Act 14, Imd. Eff. Feb. 19, 1972;—Am. 1974, Act 92, Imd. Eff. Apr. 25, 1974;—Am. 1976, Act 36, Imd. Eff. Mar. 9, 1976;—Am. 1980, Act 422, Eff. Mar. 31, 1981.

Compiler's note: For transfer of certain powers and duties of the department of state police, and its director, to the director of the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.

750.243e Violation of section; penalty; misdemeanor.

Sec. 243e. Any person, firm, copartnership or corporation, who violates any of the provisions of sections 243a to 243d, or who violates the terms of any permit issued thereunder, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: Add. 1968, Act 358, Eff. Jan. 1, 1969.

Compiler's note: For transfer of certain powers and duties of the department of state police, and its director, to the director of the department of labor and economic growth by type II transfer, see E.R.O. No. 2003-1, compiled at MCL 445.2011.